

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,617,312 to Iura et al. (herein "Iura") in view of U.S. patent 5,317,140 to Dunthorn. That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now further recites "determining whether the predetermined object is within a predetermined distance from the plane of the display". The other independent claims are similarly amended. That claimed subject matter is fully supported by the original specification, see for example step S103 in Figure 6 in the present specification and the corresponding discussion in the present specification at page 12, lines 12-21.

According to the claimed invention, coordinates of a predetermined object inserted above a plane of a display can be detected. One feature in the claimed invention is to determine when an object is close enough to a plane so that its motion can be detected. That motion can then later be used to determine coordinates of the predetermined object. The claimed invention also utilizes two cameras at respective corners of a display to calculate coordinates of the predetermined object.

Features recited in the claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

First, applicants note Iura does not disclose or suggest "determining whether the predetermined object is within a predetermined distance from the plane of the display" as now specifically recited in independent claim 1 and as similarly recited in the other independent claims.

In that respect applicants also note Dunthorn does not disclose or suggest the above-noted feature of “determining whether the predetermined object is within a predetermined distance from the plane of the display”. Dunthorn was merely cited to disclose the use of cameras at respective corners of a display device and to determine the position of an object based on triangulation. Thus, Dunthorn does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of Iura.

Moreover, applicants submit the primary applied art to Iura not only does not disclose or suggest the above-noted claim feature, but actually teaches away from that claim limitation. Thus, Iura could not even have been modified to meet the above-noted claim feature.

Iura is directed to a different type of device than in the claimed invention. As shown for example in Figure 2 Iura mounts a single camera 100 at the front of a computer, and not at a corner of a display.

However, Iura has no operation and would have no reason to determine when an object is a predetermined distance from a plane of a display. Iura utilizes the front facing camera 100 to look at the motion of a person, but in Iura a motion relative to a plane of a display is completely irrelevant. Therefore, Iura does not disclose or suggest, and actually teaches away from, “determining whether the predetermined object is within a predetermined distance from the plane of the display” and detecting an object’s position “while the predetermined object is within a predetermined distance from the plane” of the display.

In such ways, Iura does not teach or suggest features clarified in the claims, and actually teaches away from such features. Thereby, Iura could not have been modified in any manner to meet the claim limitations regardless of any disclosure in Dunthorn.

In view of the present response applicants respectfully submit the claims as written distinguish over the applied art.

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Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2006

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

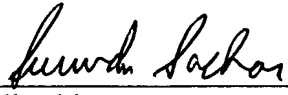
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